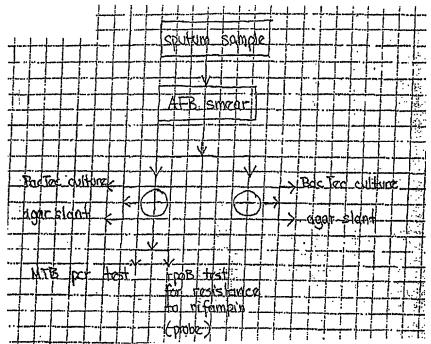




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(54) Title: METHOD AND KIT FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANCE MUTATIONS IN MYCOBAC- TERIUM TUBERCULOSIS					
(57)	Abstract				,

ſħ Amplification and cycle sequencing primer sets have been developed for the detection and analysis of antibiotic resistance-associated mutations in defined regions of the rpoB (rifampin), katG (isoniazid), oxyR-ahpC PR (isoniazid), mabA (isoniazid), rpsL/s12 (streptomycin), 16S/rrs (streptomycin), embB (ethambutol), pncA (pyrazinamide), gyrA (ciprofloxacin) and **23S** (azithromycin) Mycobacterium genes of tuberulosis. These primers can be used in a method for detection and characterization of Mycobacterium tuberculosis present in a sample. method includes the steps of obtaining a sputum sample suspected of containing M. tuberculosis, performing a first sequencing procedure, with or without prior amplification, on the sample to detect the presence of M. tuberculosis, and if present to evaluate the



rpoB, katG, rpsL/s12 and 23S genes for the presence of antibiotic-resistance inducing mutations; and (c) if *M. tuberculosis* is detected in step (b), performing a second sequencing procedure, with or without prior amplification, on the sample to evaluate the additional genes for the presence of antibiotic-resistance inducing mutations.